

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A top-loading coffeemaker for brewing a coffee beverage from ground coffee, comprising:

a housing defining an open top and having a rear portion and a front portion accessible through the open top;

5 a water reservoir located in the rear portion for storing water for brewing the coffee beverage;

a filter basket located in the front portion for containing the ground coffee during brewing; and

10 a conduit extending between the front and rear portions, with an inlet located in the front portion and an outlet fluidly connected to the water reservoir, such that the water reservoir can be filled by introducing water into the inlet.

2. The top-loading coffeemaker according to claim 1, wherein a portion of the conduit is located in front of the filter basket.

3. The top-loading coffeemaker according to claim 2, wherein a portion of the conduit extends beside the filter basket.

4. The top-loading coffeemaker according to claim 3, wherein at least a portion of the inlet is located in front of the filter basket.

5. The top-loading coffeemaker according to claim 4, wherein the conduit is an open top channel.

6. The top-loading coffeemaker according to claim 1, and further comprising a rear cover moveably mounted to the housing for movement between a closed position,

where the rear cover overlies the water reservoir, and an open position, where the rear cover is away from the water reservoir to permit access thereto.

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7. The top-loading coffeemaker according to claim 6, and further comprising a front cover moveably mounted to the housing for movement between a closed position, where the front cover overlies the filter basket and closes a portion of the open top, and an open position, where the front cover is away from the filter basket to permit the
5 insertion and removal of a filter into and from the filter basket through the open top.

8. The top-loading coffeemaker according to claim 7, and further comprising a linkage connecting the front and rear covers such that the rear cover is moved from the closed to the open position in response to the movement of the front cover from the closed to the open position.

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9. The top-loading coffeemaker according to claim 8, wherein the linkage connects the front and rear covers such that the rear cover can be moved from the closed to the open position independent of the movement of the front cover.

10. The top-loading coffeemaker according to claim 8, wherein the linkage comprises a linkage arm pivotally attached to the rear cover and translatable toward the front cover when the rear cover is moved from the closed position to the open position.

11. The top-loading coffeemaker according to claim 8, wherein the linkage comprises a linkage arm slidably attached to the front cover and moveable independently of the front cover.

12. The top-loading coffeemaker according to claim 8, wherein the linkage connects the front and rear covers such that the rear cover automatically moves to the closed position when the front cover is moved to the closed position.

13. The top-loading coffeemaker according to claim 12, wherein the automatic closing is accomplished through gravity.

14. The top-loading coffeemaker according to claim 1, and further comprising a base located beneath the front portion for supporting a container containing the coffee beverage.

15. A top-loading coffeemaker for brewing a coffee beverage from ground coffee, comprising:

a housing having a rear portion and a front portion;

5 a water reservoir located in the rear portion for storing water for brewing the coffee beverage;

a filter basket located in the front portion for containing the ground coffee during brewing;

10 a rear cover moveably mounted to the housing for movement between a closed position, where the rear cover overlies the water reservoir, and an open position, where the rear cover is away from the water reservoir to permit access thereto;

a front cover moveably mounted to the housing for movement between a closed position, where the front cover overlies the filter basket, and an open position, where the front cover is away from the filter basket to permit the insertion and removal of a filter into and from the filter basket; and

15 a linkage connecting the front and rear covers such that the rear cover is moved from the closed to the open position in response to the movement of the front cover from the closed to the open position.

16. The top-loading coffeemaker according to claim 15, wherein the linkage connects the front and rear covers such that the rear cover can be moved from the closed to the open position independent of the movement of the front cover.

17. The top-loading coffeemaker according to claim 16, wherein the linkage comprises a linkage arm pivotally attached to the rear cover and translatable toward the front cover when the rear cover is moved from the closed position to the open position.

18. The top-loading coffeemaker according to claim 16, wherein the linkage comprises a linkage arm slidably attached to the front cover and moveable independently of the front cover.

19. The top-loading coffeemaker according to claim 15, and further comprising a conduit extending between the front and rear portions, with an inlet located in the front portion and an outlet fluidly connected to the water reservoir, such that the water reservoir can be filled by introducing water into the inlet.

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20. The top-loading coffeemaker according to claim 19, wherein a portion of the conduit is located in front of the filter basket.

21. The top-loading coffeemaker according to claim 20, wherein a portion of the conduit extends beside the filter basket.

22. The top-loading coffeemaker according to claim 21, wherein at least a portion of the inlet is located in front of the filter basket.

The top-loading coffeemaker according to claim 22, wherein the conduit is an open top channel.

24. A top-loading coffeemaker for brewing a coffee beverage from ground coffee, comprising:

a housing having comprising a rear portion, with an open top, and a front portion with an open top;

5 a front cover moveably mounted to the housing for movement between a closed position, where the front cover overlies the open top of the front portion, and an open position, where the front cover is away from the open top of the front portion;

a rear cover moveably mounted to the housing for movement between a closed position, where the rear cover overlies the open top of the rear portion, and an open position, where the rear cover is away from the open top of the rear portion; and

10 a linkage connecting the front and rear covers such that the rear cover is moved from the closed to the open position in response to the movement of the front cover from the closed to the open position.

25. The top-loading coffeemaker according to claim 24, wherein the linkage connects the front and rear covers such that the rear cover can be moved from the closed to the open position independent of the movement of the front cover.

26. The top-loading coffeemaker according to claim 25, wherein each of the front and rear covers are pivotally mounted to the housing.

27. The top-loading coffeemaker according to claim 26, wherein the linkage comprises a link arm having one end fixedly mounted to the rear cover, another end slidably mounted to the front cover, and a catch extending from the arm such that when the front cover is pivoted from the closed to the open position, the catch contacts a portion of the front cover to move the rear cover to the open position.

28. The top-loading coffeemaker according to claim 27, wherein the front cover comprises a front lever arm, the rear cover comprises a rear lever arm, and the link arm is rotatably pinned to the rear cover and slidably mounted to the front lever arm such that when the front cover is pivoted from the closed to the open position, the catch slides into contact with the front lever arm to move the rear cover to the open position, and when the rear cover is pivoted from the closed to the open position, the catch slides away from the front lever arm to leave the front cover in the closed position.

29. The top-loading coffeemaker according to claim 24, wherein the linkage connects the front and rear covers such that the rear cover automatically moves to the closed position when the front cover is moved to the closed position.

30. The top-loading coffeemaker according to claim 29, wherein the automatic closing is accomplished through gravity.